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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
PUBLIC NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT
RCRA CLOSURE OF A HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL AREA
CLOSURE BY REMOVAL
CERCLA NO ACTION PROPOSED PLAN
YAKIMA PESTICIDE LAB
EPA NO. WAD 12051 3957
AUGUST 24, 1992

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Public Notice and the public participation process is to allow interested persons and other government agencies the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology's (Ecology) proposed determination that cleanup activities have been completed at the hazardous waste disposal area at the Yakima Pesticide Lab, 3706 West Nob Hill Boulevard, Yakima, Washington 98902. Details about where to get more information are included in this notice.

ABOUT THIS NOTICE:

The Yakima Lab was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) in 1983. Cleanup activities at the Lab were regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Washington State Hazardous Waste Management Act. EPA and Ecology believe that cleanup activities have been completed, that contaminated septic tank and soil have been removed and properly disposed and that there is no need for either further action or long-term monitoring. EPA and Ecology seek public comment regarding final administrative decisions related to the site. These decisions are:

1. Closure Equivalency Determination

EPA and Washington State hazardous waste regulations require that hazardous waste disposal systems which received hazardous waste after July 26, 1982, or which certified closure after January 26, 1983, obtain a post-closure permit unless they show though an "equivalency demonstration" that they have complied with the more stringent closure standards specified in 40 CFR section 264.228 (a)(1) for closure by removal and decontamination (known as "clean closure" or closure with no hazardous waste left in place). A successful equivalency demonstration would preclude the need to obtain and implement a RCRA and Washington State post-closure permit. EPA and Ecology believe that the equivalency demonstration is sufficient to show that the Lab has complied with requirements for closure by removal and decontamination.

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2. Proposed "No Further Action" Under CERCLA

Prior to removing the Yakima site from the NPL, EPA must determine that the site no longer poses a significant threat to public health and the environment and therefore, the taking of further remedial measures is not appropriate. EPA and Ecology believe that no further cleanup action under CERCLA and Washington State law is required at the site because cleanup activities under RCRA have removed hazardous substances of concern. EPA's proposed determination is being made available for public review and comment. If no significant comments on this proposed determination are received, EPA intends to issue a No Further Action Record of Decision and a Notice of Intent to Delete the site from the NPL.

CLEANUP ACTIVITIES AT THE SITE:

The Yakima Pesticide Lab is located at the Yakima Agricultural Research Laboratory which is situated in the residential community of Yakima, Yakima County, Washington. The Research Laboratory consists of numerous office and laboratory research buildings, warehouses, storage sheds, maintenance and greenhouse buildings occupying approximately 15% of an approximately 10 acre parcel in Yakima. From 1965 to 1985, the Lab discharged dilute pesticide waste into a septic tank and drainfield system. The waste disposal unit was the only hazardous waste management system at the site. The primary activity at the research station involves the development of insect control technologies that benefit fruit and vegetable agriculture in the Pacific Northwest.

In 1980, this activity became subject to RCRA hazardous waste regulations. A site closure plan, meeting RCRA interim status standards, was approved on January 30, 1990. The approved closure plan requires clean closure in accordance with WAC 173-303-610 and 40 CFR Part 265 Subpart G requirements. The plan was implemented starting in the summer of 1990 and was completed in the summer of 1992 with a certification of closure.

The completed closure (i.e., cleanup) action removed the sources of contamination through the removal and disposal of septic tank contents, excavation and removal of septic tank and drainfield and washdown pad removal. Approximately 40 cubic yards of contaminated soil containing pesticides above the cleanup levels were removed from the former tank/pad area and disposed of at a licensed hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal (TSD) facility.

The soil and groundwater sampling data indicate that remaining contaminants, if any, are well below levels of concern, i.e., below cleanup levels. Most of this data has been validated through rigorous quality control procedures. EPA is completing the validation process for the remaining samples. If final quality control review of these remaining samples indicates that

concentrations of any contaminants are above cleanup levels, EPA and Ecology will reconsider its proposal for this site.

Based on the results of all soil and groundwater sampling, EPA and Ecology have determined that Yakima Pesticide Lab successfully removed residuals of hazardous waste in accordance with EPA and Ecology requirements for decontamination and removal under RCRA. Therefore, EPA and Ecology propose that no further monitoring, permits or action under either RCRA or CERCLA is required for this site. The site will not be used for further waste disposal.

YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE:

EPA and Ecology will accept comments for the next thirty (30) calendar days, from August 24, 1992, to September 22, 1992. Comments should include all reasonable available references, factual grounds and supporting material. Copies of documentation supporting the clean closure of this site are available for public review at:

Washington Department of Ecology, Central Regional Office,
attn: Michelle Slater, 106 South 6th Avenue, Yakima,
Washington 98902.

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
Hazardous Waste Division - Records Center, 1200 6th Avenue,
Seattle, Washington 98101.

The public meeting will be held on September 10, 1992 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the:

Yakima Valley Regional Library
102 N. 3rd Street (adjacent to the Yakima Mall)
Yakima, WA 98901

After the comment period is over, the EPA and Ecology will consider any issues raised prior to making final decisions about site completion, deletion of the site from the NPL and termination of interim status.

WRITTEN COMMENTS SHOULD BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 22 AND SENT TO:

Lynda Priddy
U.S. EPA Region 10
1200 6th Avenue (HW-113)
Seattle Washington 98101

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynda Priddy, (206)-553-2712 or 1-(800)-424-4EPA or in Yakima, Brian Dick, (509) 575-2477.